

plants quadrupled their area in the last 10 years. If they continue to spread at their current rate, they will dominate western rangelands in the future. Over 17 million acres of "public land" in the west are infested with noxious weeds with an additional 4,600 acres becoming infested each day. Currently Dalmatian toadflax is in an exponential growth phase in Montana, expanding at a rate of 14 percent per year. In Montana, about 8 million acres are seriously infested with noxious weeds. Previous MSU research indicates that sheep and/or goat grazing offers an additional and diversified tool in the fight against noxious weeds when used in an integrated weed management program. Noxious weeds can interfere with profitable land use, reduce production, alter ecosystems, threaten wildlife habitat and lower land value.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, on October 15, 2009, I was unable to cast votes due to attending an event on expanding small business opportunities with President Obama on October 21, 2009, in Hyattsville, Maryland. I was not present for rollcall votes 793, 794, 795, 796 and 797. Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows: "yea" on S. 1793, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Act; "yea" on H. Res. 811, expressing support for the designation of October 2009 as National Principals Month; "yea" on H. Res. 837, recognizing Kentucky Wesleyan College for over 150 years of service as an institution of higher education; "yea" on H. Res. 660, recognizing the distinguished history of the Laurinburg Normal Industrial Institute; and "yea" on S. Con. Res. 43, authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to former Senator Edward Burke.

IN MEMORY OF REAR ADMIRAL
WAYNE E. MEYER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of the death of Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer. He is known as the "Father of Aegis" for his 13 years of work on the Aegis Weapons systems.

Adm. Meyer was born in Brunswick, Missouri, on April 21, 1926. In 1943, he enlisted with the Navy. While serving with the Navy, he graduated from the University of Kansas in 1946 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He also obtained a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and M.S. in Astronautics and Aeronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Additionally, he received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. His engineering education would later help with his work on developing advanced weapons systems for the Navy.

One of Adm. Meyer's first assignments found him manning the radar of the USS

Goodrich only after 11 months of radar and sonar training at M.I.T. In the post-World War II period, he served as part of the occupation forces in the Mediterranean, China, and Japan seas. Upon his return to the U.S., he enrolled and taught in variety of schools from 1951–1955. These included studying at the Joint Guided Missile School in Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Naval Line School in Monterey, California. He later was instructor at the Special Weapons School in Norfolk Virginia. Following his studies at Monterey and M.I.T., he was ordered to the USS Galveston, where he served as Gunnery Sergeant and eventually oversaw the conversion to the first Talos missiles on the cruiser.

In 1963, he was chosen to serve in the Navy Task Force for Surface Guided Missile Systems. Later, he was also appointed to assist with the analog to high-speed digital system transition on 30 Terrier-armed ships. He became the Director of Engineering at the Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station in 1967. Three years later, he was called to Washington, D.C., to head the Aegis Weapons System. In the following years, he was named supervisor of many projects, including the Surface Missile Systems and Surface Warfare. In January 1975, he was chosen for Rear Admiral. Shortly after his selection, he became the founding Project Manager of Aegis Shipbuilding, and, in 1983, he was reassigned as Deputy Commander, Weapons and Combat Systems, Naval Sea Systems Command. Eventually, he retired from active duty in 1985.

In his retirement, Adm. Meyer served in a variety of consulting positions, including assisting the Surface Navy and the Missile Defense Agency's development of missile defense capability for the nation's Aegis fleet and serving on many committees chartered by Department of Defense personnel.

Madam Speaker, Admiral Wayne E. Meyer was an honorable officer in the military. I am certain that the members of the House will join me in extending their heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 793, supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week. I commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. REYES, for his continued support of this important celebration of chemistry.

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of National Chemistry Week, which is sponsored by the American Chemical Society. The event features outreach programs created by schools and businesses to educate communities and schoolchildren on the importance of chemistry in their everyday lives. The theme of this year's National Chemistry Week is "Chemistry—It's Elemental," which emphasizes the role that elements play in every aspect of our lives, from the air we breathe to the cars we drive to the food we eat.

I applaud the ACS for their commitment to chemistry education at the elementary and secondary level. To maintain our nation's role as a leader in innovation in an increasingly globalized world, our young people will need to excel in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Training a new generation of chemists will also be essential for solving the world's most pressing issues, from fighting global warming to discovering vaccines for emerging diseases. This is why I am pleased that this year's event includes a national chemistry competition, the distribution of 10,000 Merck Indexes to science educators, and a website with biographies of chemists and online activities to inspire students to choose a career path in chemistry.

As important as this resolution is though, we need to do more in Congress right now to improve STEM education. A recent National Assessment of Education Progress showed that, for the first time since 1980, 4th graders made no progress in math performance between 2007 and 2009. Study after study highlights the need to strengthen math and science education so that our nation's students do not continue to lag behind others in developing the skills critical for global competitiveness.

Again, I commend Mr. REYES and the ACS for their commitment to promoting a greater understanding of chemistry, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO PREFECT PIERO
MATTEI OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ITALY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable service of Dr. Piero Mattei, who is Prefect of the Province of Vicenza in the Republic of Italy. Prefect Mattei is retiring after forty years of remarkable service to not only the Italian people, but also to our country.

The U.S. Army's Southern European Task Force's, USASETAF, headquarters is based in the city of Caserma Ederle, in Vicenza. The USASETAF base is home to the 173rd Airborne Battalion, 14th Transportation Battalion, 22nd Area Support Group, 509th Signal Battalion, and the 663rd Transportation Detachment. Prefect Mattei has been a steadfast friend of the United States of America, and has shown particular care and concern for the American soldiers, civilians, and families who live and work at USASETAF. Prefect Mattei has shown great personal courage and great respect in dealing with sensitive issues of international importance.

When protesters tried to block the construction of the 173rd Airborne's new base in Dal Molin, it was Prefect Mattei's skill and personal intervention that helped to move the project forward towards completion. This is just one of many examples of this extraordinary public servant's devotion to justice and warm relations between our two great nations.

On behalf of this thankful nation, I wish Prefect Mattei and Signora Piera the very best as they embark on this new and exciting chapter in their life. They will always be special friends of the people of the United States of America.